

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A protective covering for use during construction, comprising:
  - a protective backing layer having front and back surfaces defined by opposing top and bottom edges and opposing left and right side edges, said protective backing layer being formed from a first material;
  - a plurality of protective strips attached to said protective backing layer, said plurality of protective strips being arranged so as to provide uncovered portions of said front surface between each of the strips, said protective strips being formed from a second material; and
  - one or more flap portions proximate at least one of said top, bottom, left, and right edges by a portion of said front surface that is not covered by said plurality of protective strips, said flap portion including an adhesive and a removable topsheet.
2. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 1, further comprising means for binding said plurality of protective strips to said front side.
3. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a thickness of aboutsubstantially 1/16 to 1 inch.
- 4.(Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a width of aboutsubstantially 1/2 to 24 inches.
5. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a length of aboutsubstantially 6 inches to 8 feet.
6. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of protective strips are positioned so as to be substantially parallel to one another.

7. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 1, further comprising a second protective backing layer joined with said plurality of protective strips opposite said protective backing layer.
8. (Previously Presented) A protective covering for use during construction, comprising:
  - a protective backing layer formed from a first material;
  - a plurality of protective portions attached to and covering portions of said protective backing layer, said plurality of protective portions being arranged so that portions of said protective backing layer are exposed between each of said protective portions, said protective portions being formed from a second material that is different than said first material; and
  - at least one flap portion, said at least one flap portion not being covered by said plurality of protective portions.
9. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 8, wherein said at least one flap portion includes an adhesive.
10. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 9, said flap portion including a removable topsheet covering said adhesive.
11. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 8, further comprising an adhesive for binding said plurality of protective portions to said protective backing layer.
12. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 8, wherein said plurality of protective portions have a thickness of ~~about~~substantially 1/16 to 1 inch.
13. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 8, wherein said protective portions have a circular, square, or rectangular shape, or a shape that is a combination thereof.

14. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 8, further comprising a second protective backing layer in contact with said plurality of protective portions opposite said protective backing layer.
15. (Original) A protective covering for use during construction, comprising:
  - a protective backing layer;
  - a plurality of protective strips attached to and covering portions of said protective backing layer; and
  - one or more flap portions that are not covered by said plurality of protective strips, said one or more flap portions including an adhesive.
16. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of protective strips are arranged so that portions of said protective backing layer are exposed between each of said strips.
17. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 15, further comprising means for binding said plurality of protective strips to said front side.
18. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a thickness of about substantially 1/16 to 1 inch.
19. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a width of about substantially 1/2 to 24 inches.
20. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of protective strips have a length of about substantially 6 inches to 8 feet.
21. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 15, wherein said plurality of protective strips are positioned so as to be substantially parallel to one another.

22. (Original) A protective covering according to claim 15, further comprising a second protective backing layer joined with said plurality of protective strips opposite said protective backing layer.

23.-25. (Previously Canceled)

26. (Original) A method of manufacturing a protective covering for use during construction, comprising the steps of:

providing a protective backing layer formed from a first material; and  
attaching a plurality of protective portions to said protective backing layer so as to define a flap portion that is not covered by said plurality of protective portions, said plurality of protective portions being formed from a second material.

27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to said flap portion.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of binding said plurality of protective portions to said front surface using an adhesive.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 26, wherein said plurality of protective portions in said attaching step have one of a circle, square, and rectangle shape.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of positioning said plurality of protective portions in said attaching step so as to expose portions of said front surface between each of the protective portions.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of placing a protective top layer over said plurality of protective portions so that said plurality of

protective portions are positioned between said protective backing layer and said protective top layer.

32. (Previously Presented) A protective covering for use during construction, comprising:

a protective backing layer;

a plurality of protective strips attached to and covering portions of said protective backing layer; and

at least one flap portion that is not covered by said plurality of protective strips.

33. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, wherein:

said protective backing layer having front and back surfaces defined by opposing top and bottom edges and opposing left and right side edges, said protective backing layer being formed from a first material;

said plurality of protective strips being arranged so as to provide uncovered portions of said front surface between each of the strips, said protective strips being formed from a second material; and

said at least one flap portion proximate at least one of said top, bottom, left, and right edges.

33.9. (Currently Amended) A protective covering according to claim 32, wherein said at least one flap portion includes an adhesive.

34. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, wherein said at least one flap portion is at a first edge of said protective backing layer and another said at least one flap portion at a second edge of said protective backing layer, said second edge being opposite of said first edge.

35. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, wherein said plurality of protective strips are arranged so that portions of said protective backing layer are exposed between each of said strips.
36. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, further comprising a means for binding said plurality of protective strips to said protective backing layer.
37. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, wherein said plurality of protective strips are positioned so as to be substantially parallel to one another.
38. (Previously Presented) A protective covering according to claim 32, further comprising a second protective backing layer joined with said plurality of protective strips opposite said protective backing layer.

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